



NTSB

SAFETY ALERT

National Transportation Safety Board

★ Graduated Driver Licensing

***Give young people the help they need
to become better drivers and to save lives***

The grim facts:

- More of our teenagers die in traffic crashes than from any other cause.
- In 2003, teen drivers represented less than 7 percent of the driving population, but they accounted for more than 13 percent of the drivers involved in all deadly crashes.
- More than 21 percent of all highway fatalities occur in crashes that involve our teenage drivers.
- From 1997 through 2001, more than 16,600 people died in crashes involving 14- to 17-year-old drivers.
- 16-year-old drivers driving alone are more than twice as likely to be involved in a fatal crash as older drivers.
- The risk of a crash increases greatly with each additional teen passenger riding with a young teen driver.
- 16-year-old drivers driving alone are more than twice as likely to be involved in a fatal crash as older drivers.
- Two-thirds of the passengers who were killed in these teen driver crashes were teenagers themselves, between the ages of 15 and 19.
- Studies from nearly a dozen States show that deaths and serious injuries from traffic crashes involving young drivers declined by as much as 58 percent following enactment of graduated licensing provisions, depending upon the provisions of the law.

Effective actions in graduated driver licensing:

These requirements in a three-stage licensing program are recommended by the NTSB:

Learner's permit

- o 6-month minimum holding period (without an at-fault crash or traffic violation).
- o Supervised driving requirement with supervising driver age 21 or older.
- o Seat belts used by all passengers in all seating positions.
- o Driving with any measurable blood alcohol level prohibited.
- o Cell phone use by drivers with a learner's permit prohibited.

Intermediate (provisional) license

- o 6-month minimum holding period (without an at-fault crash or traffic violation).
- o Nighttime driving restriction.
- o Teen passenger restriction (zero or 1).
- o Seat belts used by all passengers in all seating positions.
- o Driving with any measurable blood alcohol level prohibited.
- o Cell phone use by drivers with a provisional permit prohibited while driving.

Full licensure

- o Seat belts used by all passengers in all seating positions
- o Driving with any measurable blood alcohol level by all drivers under age 21 prohibited.

What can **you** do to save the lives of young, novice drivers?

- Make sure your teen driver follows the stages and restrictions recommended by the NTSB.
- Talk to or write to your State and local lawmakers and urge them to support the NTSB's recommendations concerning graduated driver licensing.

Need more information?

Visit the NTSB Web site at www.nts.gov.